

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-20, and 22-24 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 6, 9, 14, 17, and 22 are amended. Claims 5, 13, and 21 are cancelled. Claims 1, 9, and 17 are amended to incorporate the features of cancelled claims 5, 13, and 21. Claims 6, 14, and 22 are amended to provide proper antecedent basis. No new matter is added as a result of the above amendments. Reconsideration of the above amendments to the claims in view of the following Remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter, Claims 5-8, 13-16, and 21-24

Applicants thank Examiner Craig for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 5-8, 13-16, and 21-24. By this Response, independent claims 1, 9, and 17 are amended to incorporate the features of claims 5, 13, and 21. By virtue of their dependency on independent claims 1, 9, and 17 respectively, claims 2-4, 6-8, 10-12, 14-16, 18-20, and 22-24 are also in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-20, and 22-24 of the present invention are now in condition for allowance.

II. Conclusion

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is patentable over the cited references and is now in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the Examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

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Respectfully submitted,



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